



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
July 17, 2012

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV, Council Chairman
Mr. Paul Corbeil, District I, Vice Chairman
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II, Chairman Pro Tem
Mr. Archie Barron, District III
Mr. Reg Dexter, District V

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, Thomas L. Martin County Attorney, County Administrator Scott Moulder, Assistant Administrator Glenn Breed and Clerk to Council Elizabeth G. Hulse.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeese.com/council]. In addition it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Member of the press present: Ray Chandler – Anderson Independent, Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio, Ashton Hester – Keowee Courier & Mike Eads - The Daily Journal.

Call to Order: Mr. Thrift called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Extended Public Comment Session: None scheduled at this meeting.

Public Comment Session [related to specific agenda items]:
None at this meeting.

Public Comment Session [related to non-agenda items]:

Mr. Daniel Price addressed Council in support of development of a hotel in Seneca but voiced concerns that additional water run off to his adjacent property is becoming an issue.

Ms. Nanette Alexander asked the Clerk to Council to read into the record her PowerPoint presentation [copy filed with these minutes] entitled “Request for Petition Drive Assistance”.

Mr. Richard Marcengill addressed Council regarding the sewer referendum passed by Council; asking questions related to voting eligibility and who will pay the tax.

Mr. Tom Markovich addressed Council commending them for their action regarding Ordinance 2012-02; reducing the requested School District budget by \$2 million dollars.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council during the Public Hearing portion of the meeting. His comments were intended for the Public Comment Session; therefore, they are recorded here. Mr. Littleton voiced concerns regarding the recent drowning on the Chattooga River and the retrieval of the body.

County Council Response to Public Comment:

Mr. Corbeil offered assistance to Mr. Marcengill suggesting he contact him to discuss his concerns/questions regarding the sewer referendum.

Meeting Recess:

Mr. Thrift announced a recess at 6:07 p.m.

Meeting Reconvene:

Mr. Thrift reconvened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. McCall led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

Minutes:

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2012 special meeting and the June 19, 2012 regular meeting as presented.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 – 1 [Mr. Dexter abstained – he was absent from the meeting – form filed with these minutes] to approve the minutes from the June 25, 2012 special called meeting as presented.

Staff Recognition:

Southeastern Tourism Society’s “Forty for the Future” award to Phil Shirley, PRT Director

Prior to the Public Hearing, Council requested Mr. Moulder address Council to recognize Mr. Phil Shirley, PRT Director, who was recently awarded the Southeast Tourism Society’s ‘Forty for the Future’; a program which recognizes the nation’s top 40 travel professionals under 40 years of age. [A copy of a PowerPoint slide is filed with these minutes outlining the award in greater detail.]

Mr. Shirley thanked Mr. Moulder and Council noting that he works with a great team and is given the freedom to do what needs to be done to promote Oconee County as a great tourism destination. Council commended Mr. Shirley on a job well done.

Public Hearing regarding the Following Ordinances:

Ordinance 2012-21 “AN ORDINANCE TO REWRITE AND REVISE CHAPTER 10 *EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SERVICES* AND CHAPTER 26 *ROADS AND BRIDGES* OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS, ONLY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO”

Mr. Thrift opened the floor for Public Comment.

Mr. Thrift asked if any citizens wished to address Council regarding this ordinance.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council during the Public Hearing. His comments are reflected in these minutes as part of the Public Comment session as they were not related to this ordinance.

Mr. Thrift opened the floor for any additional citizens wishing to address this topic who did not sign up on the sheet; none presented to speak.

Mr. Thrift asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments regarding this ordinance; no citizen presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Thrift closed the Public Hearing regarding Ordinance 2011-21.

Ordinance 2012-23 “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 10 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, BY DISSOLVING THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION OF OCONEE COUNTY, DELETING THE ENTIRE CURRENT TEXT OF ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 10, SUBJECT TO AND CONTINGENT UPON CERTAIN CONDITIONS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO ”

Mr. Thrift opened the floor for Public Comment.

Mr. Thrift opened the floor for any additional citizens wishing to address this topic who did not sign up on the sheet; none presented to speak.

Mr. Thrift asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments regarding this ordinance; no citizen presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Thrift closed the Public Hearing regarding Ordinance 2011-23.

Ordinance 2012-24 “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-241 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS ONLY, BY ESTABLISHING A NEW REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT OF BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS OF OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL AND CLARIFYING CERTAIN CURRENT LANGUAGE OF SUCH SECTION; AMENDING ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 10 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ESTABLISHING AND CREATING THE OCONEE COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD ADVISORY COMMISSION AND THE OCONEE COUNTY FIRE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION AND ESTABLISHING THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS APPLICABLE THERETO; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO ”

Mr. Thrift opened the floor for Public Comment.

Mr. Thrift opened the floor for any additional citizens wishing to address this topic who did not sign up on the sheet; none presented to speak.

Mr. Thrift asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments regarding this ordinance; no citizen presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Thrift closed the Public Hearing regarding Ordinance 2011-24.

Consideration of the Following Ordinances:

Ordinance 2012-21

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to approve

Ordinance 2012-21 “AN ORDINANCE TO REWRITE AND REVISE CHAPTER 10 *EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SERVICES* AND CHAPTER 26 *ROADS AND BRIDGES* OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS, ONLY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO” on third & final reading.

Ordinance 2012-23

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 5 – 0 to approve

Ordinance 2012-23 “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 10 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, BY DISSOLVING THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION OF OCONEE COUNTY, DELETING THE ENTIRE CURRENT TEXT OF ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 10, SUBJECT TO AND CONTINGENT UPON CERTAIN CONDITIONS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO” on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2012-24

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to approve

Ordinance 2012-24 “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-241 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS ONLY, BY ESTABLISHING A NEW REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT OF BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS OF OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL AND CLARIFYING CERTAIN CURRENT LANGUAGE OF SUCH SECTION; AMENDING ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 10 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ESTABLISHING AND CREATING THE OCONEE

COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD ADVISORY COMMISSION AND THE OCONEE COUNTY FIRE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION AND ESTABLISHING THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS APPLICABLE THERETO; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO” on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2012-16

Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2012-16** “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 38 “ZONING” OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, INCLUDING ALL ZONING MAPS INCORPORATED THEREIN AND THEREBY, IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS, ONLY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO” [*Watson2 Rezoning Request*] on second reading and to schedule the public hearing at the August 2012 Council meeting.

Ordinance 2012-26

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2012-26** “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 38 “ZONING” OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, INCLUDING ALL ZONING MAPS INCORPORATED THEREIN AND THEREBY, IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS, ONLY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO” [*Echo Hills Rezoning Request*] on second reading and to schedule the public hearing at the August 2012 Council meeting.

Ordinance 2012-27

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2012-27** ‘AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER AND CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN OCONEE COUNTY REAL PROPERTY IN THE OCONEE COUNTY COMMERCIAL PARK; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO” on second reading.

Ordinance 2012-28

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2012-28** “AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF THE STONE POND SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT; TO DESIGNATE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT; TO ESTABLISH THE NATURE OF SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED THEREIN; TO DESIGNATE THE AMOUNT OF UNIFORM ANNUAL FEES TO BE LEVIED AND COLLECTED FOR THE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT; TO PROVIDE FOR THE OPERATION OF THE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO” on second reading.

Ordinance 2012-29

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2012-29** “AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2012, OF OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT EXCEEDING \$1,600,000; FIXING THE FORM AND CERTAIN DETAILS OF THE BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNTY COUNCIL TO DETERMINE CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS AND THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROCEEDS THEREOF; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO” on first reading.

Discussion & Possible Action Items

Sheriff Department / Acceptance of \$40,000 SCDNR Water Recreation Resources Funds

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 - 0 to [1] approve acceptance of \$40,000 from the SCDNR Water Recreational Resource Fund for the purchase of a patrol boat, and [2] to authorize the County Administrator to execute the agreement.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Moulder suggested a format change to future Council agendas; moving the Administrator's report to the front of the meeting to [1] provide an overall agenda summary and to answer questions, and [2] to highlight special county events, projects, people, etc. Discussion followed. Council agreed with the proposed change in format and instructed the Clerk to make the change for the August 2012 agenda.

Board & Commission Appointments

None scheduled for this meeting.

Commission & Board Reports to Council

None scheduled for this meeting.

Council Committee Reports

Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management Committee / Mr. Barron

Mr. Barron read from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] outlining the activities during the June 25, 2012 committee meeting.

Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to direct the Administrator to work with the developer interested in development of the old courthouse into a hotel or Inn with potential retail and/or office space and report back to Council.

Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to direct the Administrator to work to develop a final proposal to include county needs as it relates to solar, photovoltaic and other renewable energy sources.

Transportation Committee / Mr. Thrift

Mr. Thrift read from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] outlining the activities during the July 10, 2012 committee meeting.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to add Ashley Drive, Pawnee Drive, Bee Street, Country Acres Road and Lake Point East to the paving contract contingent upon receipt of additional C-Fund money.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to authorize the Administrator to approve change orders to the Road Paving Contract 2011-2012 [2] for the approved roads listed in the previous motion.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to authorize the Administrator to execute any requirement agreement with the US Forest Services related to the Lands Bridge grant.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to approve the prioritized Bridge/Culvert listing [copy filed with these minutes] as presented in this meeting.

Lastly, Mr. Thrift noted that the County has great needs in the county for road maintenance and upgrades; however, he also noted that funding is at present not sufficient to meet the needs. Mr. Thrift asked Council to work to identify creative funding methods to address pressing needs in the county.

Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee / Mr. McCall

Mr. McCall read from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] outlining the activities during the July 17, 2012 committee meeting.

Mr. McCall noted that the Committee approved staff to work with the county attorney to review and update the Building Codes Ordinances to include but not limited to removing any criminal penalties and replacing them with civil penalties and eliminating conflicting language.

Mr. McCall directed the Clerk to place on the August Council agenda a Resolution for adoption of the Western Piedmont Regional Emergency Management Task Force Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented at the Committee.

Old Business

None scheduled for this meeting.

New Business

Local Government Fund

Mr. Dexter noted that the State passed funding for the Local Government Fund [LGF] in the amount of \$30 million dollars. He questioned the Administrator regarding the impact on the County's approved budget. Mr. Moulder stated that he has a contingency plan in place that will be presented to Council in the future.

Adjourn

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council